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# SOLAR, SO GOOD?

## Difference of opinion over plans for 96-acre solar farm in borough

• For full story, see Page 7

**THE firm planning to build a 95.9-acre solar farm near Basingstoke has pledged to address residents' concerns after a recent consultation.**

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

SunEdison and Solar Planning Ltd held an exhibition at Rooksdown Community Centre last Wednesday, inviting people to see their proposals for the new 20MWp farm.

The company wants to build the farm on land south of Shothanger Works at Monk Sherborne.

It is hoped the farm, if built, could generate enough energy to power 6,000 homes.

The developers insisted the general public feedback was good, but admitted concerns were raised on the visual impact the farm would have on the area.

Founding Partner of Solar Planning Limited, Adriano Satta, said: "Of those who attended and filled out a feedback form, 77 per cent were either supportive or very supportive of the proposal, with the remaining 23 per cent undecided at this stage.

"There were some concerns raised regarding the visual impact of the project, and we will be addressing those concerns within our planning application.

"We will now be reviewing all of the feedback we have received along with a number of specialist reports that have been commissioned."

One person who is against the idea is Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillor John Leek, ward member for Sherborne St John, who said the site was "wholly inappropriate".

"That particular site is at one of the highest points in the borough, and if you stand in the fields, you have the most magnificent views across the Thames Valley and the north Wessex Downs.

"I understand we have to have renewable energy, but it's just not the right place to put 96 acres of solar panels.

"It's in such a prominent place – they keep telling us they will screen it – but it takes a lot longer than one thinks.

"And planting a few bits of hedge hoping it will hide something that will be there for 25 years is a joke.

"It's a wholly inappropriate site in my view."

The borough council's ward member for Rooksdown, Karen Cherrett, said there were certain project benefits that were "worthy of exploration", but said the "jury was still out" on the idea.

• *Continued on Page 2*

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# Work begins on 'outdated' blocks

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

• Mark Perry at the controls and (Left to right) Jason Ludlow - Hill Partnerships, Mike Shepherd - Sentinel, Andrew Aldridge - Hill Partnerships and Simon Bridgen - Sentinel.

**WORK has started on installing nearly 200 new homes at a site near Basingstoke.**

Demolition officially started this week of the existing blocks at the Freemantle, Taverner and Westray Close site in Oakridge.

Basingstoke-based housing association Sentinel agreed a deal with the Homes and Communities Agency to build the homes.

"It's a great feeling to see these outdated blocks starting to come down, said Mark Perry, Sentinel chief executive.

"There's a real need for more quality affordable homes in the borough and we're working hard to help address that need. We see this as a vital investment not only in new homes but also in a better quality of life for the community.

"We're confident that this regeneration will lift the whole neighbourhood, and make much better use of the space available for the local area.

"We'd like to thank everyone in the immediate neighbourhood for their support - we know it isn't easy living next to a building site and we'll do everything we can to make this as stress-free as possible."

Sentinel's £20m investment in the New Horizons development is supported by a £3.5m grant from the Homes and Communities Agency.

It will provide over 190 new homes, open space, newly equipped play areas and improved parking.

Jason Ludlow, regional director for Hill Partnerships said: "The demolition of the existing blocks is a milestone event for the community, which will see the buildings replaced with high quality new homes and carefully landscaped areas."

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration, Cllr Rob Golding, added: "This regeneration project is another good example of partnership working with Sentinel to improve the area for local residents.

"These 1960s and 1970s outdated maisonettes were not good for family life and needed replacing. "The new properties will provide better homes in a safer environment."

The first people are expected to move in by the middle of next year.

## Divide over farm plans

• *From front page*

"In terms of solar power and the development opportunity generally, I think that's something that's always worthy of exploration for the local area, particularly if it brings benefit to our resident communities and boosts the local economy," said Cllr Kerrett.

"However, for me, the jury's still out on whether it's a viable opportunity for proposed locations in and around Basingstoke.

"Currently we have significant land supply and housing issues, and any large scale development that is providing energy use for the future has to be balanced against current needs for housing and land supply.

"So I think the presentation gave us good information on the art of the possible, I think it now comes down to location and commercial viability, to ensure it's right for us at that location at this time."

Martin Heath, of Basingstoke Transition, added the developers need to "be sensitive to local needs".

"If they're well-planned, well sighted and well screened then it's something we should definitely be supporting," he added.

A planning application is expected to be submitted in the next three weeks.

**Do you have a story to share with our readers?**
Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**
or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

## Residents' views sought on area's 15-year Local Plan

**PEOPLE in Basingstoke are being asked for their opinions in shaping planning decisions in the area for the next 15 years.**

Consultations for the Local Plan close a week tomorrow (October 4).

Exhibitions are being staged throughout the borough that gives details on proposed locations for homes and other developments.

The plan allows for 748 new homes per year to be built up to 2029 to meet the borough's needs, primarily around Basingstoke.

Lower levels of development have also been focused in the settlements of Bramley, Kingsclere, Oakley, Overton and Whitchurch.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Mark Ruffell, said: "I would urge residents and community groups not to miss this chance to help shape the future of the borough by letting us know their comments on the plan.

"All responses to the consultation will be considered and changes made where necessary before the final version of the plan is submitted to a planning inspector."

Visit the borough council's website for more information.

## Three arrested after poaching

**THREE men from Tadley are on bail after being arrested for possession of weapons and night poaching.**

The men, aged 23, 28 and 30, were arrested by Thames Valley Police last Thursday (September 19) at 11.15pm after being found on the Ridgeway between Blewbury in Oxfordshire and Compton, West Berkshire.

The police were patrolling the Ridgeway as part of Operation Ranger.

All three men have been bailed with the condition not to be on the Ridgeway at any time in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire and not to be on private land in the area without prior permission.

Anyone with information about any poaching activity should contact police via 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively, visit the website at www.crimestoppers.org.uk.

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# Austen's ring is back 'home' at museum

**JANE Austen's House Museum in Alton is celebrating after securing the ownership of a gold and turquoise ring that had belonged to the writer.**

It was auctioned off in 2012 after being in Austen's family for 200 years – the purchaser being American singer Kelly Clarkson.

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By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The museum tried to buy it then, but could not raise sufficient funds in time to meet the hammer price.

However, it was subject to a temporary export ban, preventing Clarkson from taking it out of the UK, and the museum's 'Bring the Ring Home' appeal was launched to buy the ring in August.

An anonymous donor immediately put forward £100,000, and they have since raised the further £49,000 required to register "serious interest" in buying the ring.

The offer was then accepted, and the ring will be put on display at Jane Austen's House Museum in the New Year.

Mary Guyatt, curator of Jane Austen's House Museum, said "The Museum has been stunned by the generosity and light-footedness of all those who have supported our campaign to meet the costs of acquiring Jane Austen's ring for our permanent collection.

"Visitors come from all around the world to see the house where she once lived and we will now take great pleasure in displaying this pretty ring for their appreciation.

"The Government's decision to decline an export licence reflects how rarely Austen's personal effects turn up in today's art market, and having missed out at auction in 2012 we are thrilled to have had this second chance to bring it home."

Culture minister Ed Vaizey said: "I'm delighted that Jane Austen's House Museum has been successful in their campaign to bring the ring home.

"It's clear from the number of people who gave generously to the campaign just how admired Jane Austen remains to this day.'

Alan Davey, chief executive, Arts Council England, added: 'This ring is a truly important piece of history in understanding one of literature's greatest authors.

"It is fantastic that Jane Austen's House Museum has managed to raise the funds to keep this on display for people to enjoy and admire. Those who have donated should be thanked for their enormous generosity."

## Sport grants are available

**BASINGSTOKE sport groups and projects looking for funds to help them grow can apply for a new grant via the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF).**

Projects can apply for Basingstoke and Deane Community Leisure Trust funding between £500 and £2,000, with clubs that seek to help the over 65s or youngsters "especially welcomed".

Trust chair Hazel Tilbury said: "'On-going support for local sports projects is needed now more than ever, with community grants playing an increasing part in helping start-up clubs as well as groups overlooked by statutory funding.

"We wish to increase participation in healthy physical activities. This grant scheme is also vital to build on the Olympic legacy.

"We are delighted that we can offer this opportunity to small, charitable and voluntary groups."

The trust manages the borough council leisure facilities, Basingstoke Aquadrome, Tadley Pool and Basingstoke Golf Centre.

Applications need to be submitted by October 4.

# Family and friends say final farewell to dad killed on doorstep

· The cortege

· Flowers in the hearse

**FAMILY and friends have gathered to pay their respects to Stephan Hollow, who died this month after being stabbed outside his house in Buckskin.**

The 53-year-old father's funeral took place on September 13 at St Michael's Church in the town centre, attracting hundreds of mourners.

It is thought Mr Hollow died after intervening in a fight between his son Tyler and another man at the property on Blackdown Close on August 19.

William Smith, 27, has been charged with Mr Hollow's murder, and remains in custody.

A provisional trial date for Smith has been set aside for February 2014.

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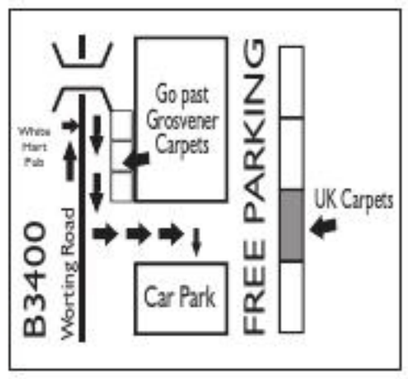


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LOOK FOR THE UNION JACKS

# Top cop - number of illegal raves has fallen

**A SENIOR police officer has praised the drop in illegal raves around Basingstoke and across Hampshire.**

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Superintendent James Fulton confirmed that Operation Enigma, launched in May to tackle the formation of illegal gatherings across the county, has resulted in police shutting down nine raves.

They attended 13 in total, the most recent of which was last weekend.

Supt Fulton was impressed with the positive and pro-active approach officers have taken in shutting down the raves.

"The fact that in three quarters of the raves we have gone in hands on, intervened and shut them down is a real step in the right direction," he said.

"Before there were occasions where we'd arrive and we wouldn't be as proactive in shutting them down – we'd let them peter out.

"But we're much more robust in terms of the police element, which is the real positive thing that I've seen this year."

"The biggest thing for me is that it's good to see a reduction in a number of raves, and an increase in resources that means we have been available to go and intervene, rather than standing on the peripheries and watching a rave that's got 200 or 300 people involved."

The northern area of Hampshire, covering Basingstoke, Hart, Rushmoor and Winchester, saw nine raves, with the other four in the south.

No casualties reported at the raves, but added he was still fearful of the threat being there.

Operation Enigma will carry on into the new year and beyond, and Supt Fulton added the operation was now "business as usual" for him and his officers.

"The lessons we've learned in previous months have now been disseminated across the force," he said. "Whenever we go to these incidences, there is the potential [for it to turn nasty].

"This year we haven't had any significant confrontations, but in previous years there have been."

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STOP THE PARTY!
Police announce fresh clampdown on illegal raves in the area

## Town centre is now the Colour Purple...

**BASINGSTOKE is going through a purple patch at the moment in the name of showing people its vibrant side.**

Purple projections lit up Festival Square and the Haymarket last weekend, marking the start of Purple Flag Week in the town.

Purple Flag Week is a celebration offering towns and cities around the UK the chance to display the quality of its social side in the evenings.

A treasure hunt is currently ongoing in the town, where people can use their mobile phones to follow clues around the town centre and win prizes.

Free events are also being staged, including the Johnny Marvels Blues Groove, appearing outside United Reform Church tomorrow at 8pm, and Festival Factor winners Common Ground in Festival Square on Saturday at 7pm.

A full programme is available atwww.basingstoke.gov.uk.

Cllr Ranil Jayawardena, deputy leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, said: "It's a great opportunity to showcase our town centre as a destination for a variety of entertainment and leisure, where people can enjoy the night life, with great transport links and a sense of safety."

## Move to stay independent

**HAMPSHIRE County Council is promoting a new service that aims to help people remain independent and live at home for as long as possible.**

It is hoped the new Reablement and Assessment of Care Team service (REACT) will reduce the need for residential or nursing care in the area.

REACT will also step in when people referred to adult social care services are struggling to remain independent in their homes, and provide short-term support to help them regain as much confidence as possible.

Cllr Anna McNair Scott, executive member for adult social care, said: "To meet the changing needs and aspirations of older people, the council is adapting the way care is delivered.

"Prevention is one of our main priorities and this includes investing in community based services such as REACT, as well as being a crucial way of reducing the costs to health and social care services.

"The new REACT service will greatly improve the quality and impact of service for people through greater working relationships with health professionals specialising in occupational therapy and physiotherapy."

It will be implemented across the county by the end of June 2014, subject to independent care providers being appointed.

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# Splash around with Rebecca!

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

**SWIMMING icon Rebecca Adlington was in Basingstoke on Monday promoting her new programme to get all primary school children swimming 25 metres.**

Becky put children from St John's Primary School through their paces as she hosted an hour-long session at Queen Mary's College on Cliddesden Road.

She had visited the school earlier in the day to talk to the pupils about the importance of swimming and water safety.

The double-Olympic champion, who won gold in 400m and 800m freestyle in Beijing five years ago, retired from swimming earlier this year.

Since then, she has embarked on a mission to get all kids swimming a length of a swimming pool by the time they leave primary school.

"I felt I wanted to do more stuff at grass-roots level – it's always something I've been passionate about," she said.

"One of the things I wanted to get out of the programme is the kids having more fun – a lot of people said they don't have that much fun in swimming lesson, but when you go with family and friends you have such a laugh.

"If, God forbid, you need to use swimming as a life skill, and you fall into a river or something, for me I'd like to know that my child is a confident swimmer and can swim away from the danger.

"It's not just good enough being able to float – they need to be able to swim properly.

"And once you've learned how to swim – it's like riding a bike – you never forget it. You are swimming for the rest of your life."

• Becky Adlington with children from St John's Primary School

Becky added how it was important for her to see teachers having fun and being passionate, as well as teaching children the correct swimming techniques.

Becky's team approached Kim Chapman – whose swim school has provided lessons for St John's for a number of years.

And Kim, who has been teaching swimming for over 25 years, shares Becky's vision of getting children swimming at an early age.

"Becky's mission to get every child to swim 25 metres has been my goal for [ages] – my swim school has been running in Basingstoke for 18 years."

Kim's school runs at the college each day except Thursday.

# Perk up and support cancer coffee day

**BASINGSTOKE Mayor Dan Putty is urging residents to help Macmillan Cancer Support raise more than £15m in one day by taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning tomorrow.**

Cllr Putty will attend The Red Lion Hotel, which is hosting one of the 300 Coffee Mornings taking place in and around Hampshire in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Money raised will be used to fund the 108 professionals, including Macmillan nurses and allied health professionals, working in clinical environments and the community across Hampshire.

## *Coffee morning sessions around Basingstoke*

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Marks and Spencer, Festival Place and Chineham
Cooperative Funeral Care, Buckland Avenue
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Travelodge, Winchester Road
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The Information Point, Basingstoke and North Hants Hospital
Spratleys, Mortimer
The Pelican, Tadley
The Wellington Arms, Stratfield Turgis
The Cheery Crofters, 16, Croft Road, Oakley

# Kids offered flu vaccines

**FLU vaccines are being offered to toddlers across Hampshire for the first time, following advice from the independent joint committee on vaccination and immunisation, which advises UK health departments.**

The vaccines had previously only been available to people aged 65 or over and those considered 'at risk', but is now being offered to just under 62,000 two and three-year-olds across Hampshire and Dorset.

Clare Simpson, consultant in public health for NHS England, said: "Flu is a serious illness and the extension of the flu vaccination programme will help to protect against the spread of flu.

"We will also be lowering the amount of viruses circulating in the community, as well as freeing up hospital beds and GP appointments.

"This year, we would like 75 per cent of those invited to have the flu vaccine."

As well as the new vaccinations for children, the regular programme will continue for people with underlying medical conditions, those aged 65 and over, pregnant women and care workers.

# Children get their wiggle on for charity caterpillar launch

**A NATIONAL fundraising campaign was launched at Action for Children's Pebbles Children Centre in Basingstoke last Tuesday (September 17).**

The charity is encouraging children's centres, nurseries and groups for the under-fives across the country to host sponsored 'Giant Wiggle' walks on The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day, March 20, to mark the 45th anniversary celebration of Eric Carle's iconic children's book.

The events will bring children together to wiggle along in giant caterpillar conga lines and encourage them to play and develop their imaginations through storytelling and creativity.

Ruth Sorby, Partnership Fundraising Manager at Action for Children, said: "It was fantastic to see the children at Pebbles Children's Centre taking part in the very first 'Giant Wiggle'.

"Everyone loves The Very Hungry Caterpillar and we hope our launch event will inspire many other 'Giant Wiggles' around the country next year in celebration of our 145th anniversary!"

All money raised will support the charity's work across the country to help vulnerable children, young people and families in the heart of communities.

Eric Carle added: "I hope the children will have lots of fun on March 20 and learn to dance with much joy."

**• Kids taking part in the campaign launch**

# Man nets belter with FA honour

**A BASINGSTOKE man who has been involved in grassroots football for over 50 years is to be honoured at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace next week.**

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Alan Turvey, from Old Basing, will receive a special FA award for outstanding contribution to football on October 7.

He is one of 150 people in the country to be honoured by Prince William as part of the FA's 150th birthday celebrations.

He said the receiving the award is a "fantastic moment".

"I don't know where the nomination came from – it was really out of the blue," he said.

"You go through your career, and you have many things you are proud of, but this is something that's a bit special. It's a fantastic award."

Alan started his grass roots football career as a referee in 1959, before being promoted to the football league in 1968.

Despite spending a lot of his time in the lower echelons of the beautiful game, he has also rubbed shoulders at the highest level as a referee, having officiated an Arsenal versus Liverpool match in 1978.

He retired from officiating shortly afterwards, and joined the Isthmian League as a fixture secretary.

He became chairman in 1982 – a position he has held ever since – and was also appointed president of the league in 2000.

Alan also served on the FA Council, before retiring from that role four years ago.

The FA have already rewarded him four years ago for 50 years of service to football.

It is not the first time Alan has met royalty in footballing circumstances.

"I've met [Prince William] at an international match before, as well as the Duke of York," said Alan. "And some years ago I presented a certificate to Prince Philip, so that was a bit unusual.

"I met the Duke of Edinburgh when Windsor and Eton FC had their centenary celebrations [in 1992 – the club folded in 2011].

"I was going to present the award to the club on behalf of the FA, and Prince Philip is a patron of the club.

"He was standing on the stage and said 'I think you should give this to me, because I've been here longer than the chairman!'"

The Isthmian League forms the seventh and eighth tiers of English football.

## Council Leader's Column

*Cllr Clive Sanders*
*Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*

# Purple Flag Week for Town

**BASINGSTOKE Town Centre is a bit more colourful than usual this week.**

We are in the middle of our first Purple Flag Week, which is celebrated in 40 towns and cities that have achieved Purple Flag status – the mark of a special place for a great and safe night out.

For the first time Basingstoke has been included in this elite group and we're bathing the town centre in purple light to celebrate.

Of course our theatres and venues are second to none and the town's easy parking, relatively traffic jam free roads and public transport connections are the envy of many.

Local bars and clubs are joining in the spirit of the week with promotions for diners wearing purple, extra entertainment and events all week.

But Purple Flag week isn't all about drinking and dancing, with classical concerts, comedy and theatre for all ages and tastes happening too.

There are even some events that are completely free to enjoy.

However, some people may still be nervous about coming into town after dark. There is no need to be concerned. In the past year, we've seen a 20 per cent drop in town centre crime, with anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related incidents halving.

The volunteer Basingstoke Street Pastors have done an incredible job of improving the atmosphere for everyone.

So why not put on your purple glad rags and step out in Basingstoke this week to see for yourself?

Find out more at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/pureflag.


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The new Basingstoke showroom is the first to be refurbished under the company’s new name. Academy Home Improvements offer a fantastic product range which includes kitchens, bedrooms, conservatories, orangeries, and doors plus double and triple-glazed windows. For more information please visit www.academyhome.co.uk or be one of the first to call into the new showroom.

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## Cliddesden nursery shuts down

**A BASINGSTOKE nursery has closed with immediate effect, giving parents little notice to find a new centre for their children to attend.**

Headstarts Day Nursery, on Farleigh Road, near Cliddesden, was closed along with four other branches in Swindon after reports that a three-year-old had gone missing from one of its premises.

Ofsted announced that the five Headstarts nurseries had closed on Monday, with parents in Basingstoke reportedly being informed of the impending closure on September 16.

A branch in Newbury closed on August 27 this year.

It is understood the company had its license revoked, although the precise reasoning for the closure is still unknown.

A recent Ofsted inspection into the Basingstoke Headstarts nursery graded the provision as satisfactory, stating that "the manager takes effective steps to identify and manage risks to keep children safe".

However it also said that there were insufficient staff to provide appropriate support to children, and a required progress check for two-year-olds was not being completed.

# MP wants answers to sewage works issues

**MARIA Miller has reiterated claims that questions need to be answered in relation to the size of Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works (STW).**

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The Basingstoke MP is concerned about the capacity of the Chineham site in dealing with the increased sewage from the housing development proposed in the town's Local Plan.

Mrs Miller feels the River Loddon is at risk of pollution at the current time.

"There is no doubt that treated effluent from the Basingstoke STW is contributing to the pollution of the River Loddon," said Mrs Miller.

"Any plan for increased housing development in Basingstoke needs to be sustainable and include proper planning for the treatment of the sewage effluent that will inevitably result.

"We need to know how this waste will be dealt with and I will be keeping up the pressure on the Borough Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency to get those plans in place."

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Thames Water have pledge to "constantly review" the impact of the situation.

A Thames Water spokesman said: "We work in five-year business planning periods set out by our regulator, Ofwat.

"Our latest business plan is for the period 2015-20, however we are constantly reviewing local developments and working with local authorities to consider the potential impact.

"We work closely with the Environment Agency to monitor the River Loddon and continue to investigate new technologies to help our works perform better."

It is not the first time the Basingstoke MP has questioned the STW's situation - in August, she called for more information to be provided regarding the environmental impact of the new equipment the firm used to assist transportation of sewage.

At the time, Mrs Miller said: "More sewage will be going to the Treatment Works from all the new housing envisaged and now on top of that, local residents will face the transporting of sewage sludge from other areas through their communities."

## Raising a glass for Sherfield beer festival

**SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON is getting ready for its eighth annual charity beer festival this Saturday.**

As well as the regions beers, there will also be a variety of food on offer at the festival, situated in the garden of the village hall, as well as live music throughout the day.

A free shuttle bus service will operate between the site and Bramley railway station during the evening.

The festival will be raising funds for St Michael's Hospice, as well as the Sherfield-on-Loddon village hall.

Helena Maskell of St. Michael's Hospice said: "Last year the Beer Festival raised an amazing £1,916 for us.

"We're delighted to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries of this great family day out again this year.

"We know it's going to be busy and full of thirsty people so bring your garden chair and enjoy another wonderful Sherfield Beer Festival."

People will get a commemorative beer glass and tasting notes describing the beers and ciders. Tickets are £5 if purchased in advance, and £7 on the day.

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## News Bites

### Lottery results

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results of its draw from September 20.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 17716 of Basingstoke, second prize of £100 to 85247 of Pamber Heath, third prize of £50 to 27558 of Hook and fourth prize of £20 to 76163 of Odiham.

Sixteen prizes of £5 were awarded to 05753, 19929, 21514, 32008, 39588, 40668, 46246, 46517, 50165, 50582, 51189, 66635, 68413, 68582, 81263 and 85917.

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# Charity hopes to get kids healthy!

**A YOUTH support charity is hoping to encourage kids to be healthier through a series of food growing initiatives.**

Basingstoke-based charity Inspero has teamed up with Sovereign Housing Association to create a garden area for youngsters to grow and produce fruit and vegetables.

Inspero say they have targeted the less affluent areas of the town as part of the project.

An area of disused land in Bardwell Close, South Ham, was selected as the spot for the garden.

The charity's chief executive, Catherine Waters-Clark, said: "We are really pleased to be working with Sovereign on this exciting project.

"Having access to the new garden is excellent news for local children, it gives them a safe and secure place to learn about the benefits of healthy eating.

"The children also work alongside a team of adult volunteers, building bridges between the generations, encouraging intergenerational working and learning."

"We want to rebuild the connection between growing and cooking food for the next generation, completing the cycle and teach our young people invaluable life skills."

Faith, 11, is one of the children who is involved in the project. "It was a great opportunity to make friends and cook new foods," she said.

Eight-year-old Jason added: "It was great fun picking sweetcorn for the first time."

And Harley, 15, said: "It improves our life skills, us learning how to cook. If you learn how to cook, you don't have to get as many takeaways."

Last year Inspero worked with 112 young people in promoting healthy eating and living through our their two programmes Love2Grow and Love2Cook.

The organisation has recently received a £10.000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund to run subsided horticulture and cookery sessions for young people over the next year.

For more information on our services visitwww.inspero.org.uk or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/love2grow.

## News Bites

### Languages day

WORLD culture is set to come to Chineham on Saturday with a celebration of the European Day of Languages.

Christ Church on Reading Road will be the destination as people can gather to enjoy a buffet of international food and drink.

A quiz, entertainment and the chance to brush up on language skills is also on offer on the day, organised by Chineham-based Linguatastic.

### Exercise classes

EXERCISE classes are starting in Basingstoke and across Hampshire in order to improve strength, balance, confidence and co-ordination for older people.

It is hoped the 'Steady and Strong' classes will minimise the risk of falls using exercises based on everyday activities.

Southern Health's Lead Falls Prevention Specialist Sue Morris said: "Preventing falls and fractures for older people is a key priority for us."

• Inspero Young Ambassadors William Phoon, Ben Kiefer, Member Sam Phillips and Aaron Clark harvesting potatoes

# Top of Town: Views sought on 'furniture'

**SHOPPERS are being asked for their opinions on new environmental improvements planned for Top of Town.**

Proposals for new benches, plants and bins are set to be unveiled at an exhibition in Basingstoke Market Place on Wednesday.

The plans are part of Basingstoke's Town Centre Programme, a series of environmental improvements being developed to enhance Top of Town.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's deputy leader, Cllr Ranil Jayawardena, said: "These smaller scale environmental improvements mark the start of work to change the look and feel of Top of Town.

"Longer term and larger scale changes will be consulted on later in the year.

"I hope that people will take the time to give us their views on how they think the public areas could be improved to make them not only more attractive but also encourage them to be better used.

"For example do we need more seating so that people can sit and eat their lunch in the fresh air? If so, what would be the best locations for this?"

Work is scheduled to last until March. Feedback can be given until October 9 via the council's website.

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Hard water is something we are all used to in the South, although most of us have got used to putting up with it, many do not realise that you can do something about it. It furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances.

The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks, the whole house can suffer where water is concerned. Limescale aggravates skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis.

With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale-related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns. If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to set clocks and lug around a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt (like two house bricks) instead of heavy bags.

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# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

# Jones is 'On the road'

**POPULAR one-liner comedian Milton Jones is coming to Basingstoke next month, as he brings his newest tour 'On the Road' to The Anvil.**

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Milton has risen to fame in recent years, with appearances on Mock the Week and comedy shows around the country complimenting his deadpan style.

'On the Road' follows his highly acclaimed 2011 tour 'The Lion Whisperer', for what promises to be a hilarious night of jokes, puns and witty one-liners.

"Stand-up is much bigger now, but also less risky and inventive than it used to be," said Milton.

"When I started there was an act called the Iceman who brought a giant block of ice on stage and melted it with a blow-torch while shouting weak puns about ice.

"He'd be unlikely to sell out the O2 Arena but the circuit has lost some of its tin-pot charm."

Milton has also starred in three radio programmes: 'The Very World of Milton Jones', 'The House of Milton Jones' and 'Another Case of Milton Jones' on Radio Four.

He added: "Radio is great because it's reading some words out while someone presses 'record'.

"TV requires lots of meetings, equipment and hundreds of people, most of whom I have no idea what they do, but television is ultimately more powerful, and reached a bigger range of people.

"I love Radio Four though, it's a bit like listening to the voice of your parents after you've left home.

"My mum would often read us the shipping forecast until we fell asleep."

This is not the first time Milton has been to Basingstoke this year, but this latest venture forms part of biggest tour to date, spanning 34 venues across the country.

Asked about his plans for the future, Milton said: "I would like to do more TV acting, have my own show and maybe a film.

"Then I would like to own a castle, a small city and so on until eventually I have an empire that stretched from West London to the outskirts of China.

"But to be honest it's more likely to be the same round of radio, TV panel games and odd visits to arts centres."

Tickets cost £20 for an 8pm start on October 9. To book, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

• Milton Jones will be at The Anvil in early October

## A Joy Division experience

UNIQUE audio-visual specialists Live_Transmission perform a spectacular rendition of Joy Division at The Anvil tomorrow evening.

However, it will be a sonic and visual experience completely different from a conventional concert.

Made up of electronic music pioneer Scanner, the Heritage Orchestra and visual artist Matt Watkins, the trio create an immersive event that pays homage to one of the UK's most influential bands.

The show starts at 7.45pm, with tickets costing £20. Call 01256 844244 or go to www.anvilarts.org.uk for more details.

## Annie Keating at the Forge tonight

NEW York-based singer-songwriter Annie Keating is at The Forge this evening, performing her selection of beautifully crafted songs.

Annie is a veteran of many national and international festivals, and has appeared at countless venues after being talent-spotted by BBC Radio Two's Bob Harris back in 2008.

Tickets for the show cost £13 for an 8.15pm start. For more details, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

## Jo: 'Better the Devil You Know'

AWARD-WINNING and sharp-witted comedian Jo Caulfield comes to Central Studio tomorrow evening, with her new show 'Better The Devil You Know'.

Known for her radio and TV appearances including It's That Jo Caulfield Again, Mock the Week and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Jo is famous for her sharp observations and scandalous one-liners.

Tickets cost £12 for a 7.30pm start. Phone 01256 418318 or visit www.centralstudio.co.uk to book.


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## Your questions answered

**Q** Do you drive a car under three years old and think you have to service it at a main dealer to qualify for warranty?
*A: We use only genuine manufacturer's parts and stamp your service book to ensure your manufacturer's warranty is upheld.*

**Q** Does your car need an MOT but you are not sure if certain areas need attention?
*A: Why not book your car in for a service at our fiercely competitive rates and we can ensure that the vehicle is fully compliant for MOT standards.*

**Q** Are you looking for quality car repairs and servicing with the emphasis on SERVICE?
*A: Fastfit Service Centre, Basingstoke, offer FREE local collection and delivery or a FREE game of Pool while you wait.*

**Q** Why not book your car in for ECU Remapping & benefit from better mpg, more torque & more bhp?
*A: Call Basingstoke (01256) 321800*

*Call Fastfit Service Centre, Basingstoke, NOW and let us take the worry out of your car maintenance for ever!*

# Taking care of your motor

**FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.**

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's and entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes. we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a rang of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

"Come and give us a try. You won't be disappointed," concluded Byron.

**Look at our Opening Times!**
Mon to Fri: 7am - 8pm, Sat: 8am - 1pm

## What our customers think

• My car had been taken to three different repair centres which was suffering from low power none of them diagnosed the problem. I took it to these guys for a remap and full exhaust in the hopes it would fix it. It was better but Byron still thought it wasn't right so spent another couple of hours diagnosing it! He didn't charge me extra and even finished after they should of closed. You just don't get that kind of service these days. Amazing!
**Cheers,**
**Clive Baldwin**

• Great service from the whole of the Fast Fit team. They know what they are talking about and are happy to help with any query.
I wanted something activated on my car that was not activated at the factory. A dealer wanted upwards of £100 to do the job, I contacted Fast Fit and they have the same Dealer Software. Done the job quick and for a third of the price!
These guys definitely know what they're talking about and I would recommend them to anyone!
**Chris H**

• Excellent service! Very polite and great value for money prices! I will recommend to friends and family. If you need your car repaired at the right price don't look any further.
**Hopkins**
source: Yell

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# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

# Beating cyberbullies

**BULLYING is an issue which is evolving with the advent of new technology.**

By **Ian Redman**
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

'Cyberbullying' is arguably a much more sinister form of abuse, because it isn't as detectable to people other than the victim.

This is where Hot or Not comes in. Performed twice at Basingstoke's Central Studio on Saturday September 21, the show aimed to raise awareness of cyberbullying, while telling a very powerful story at the same time.

An innovative mixture of pre-filmed sequences and live performances in front of the audience (which included Basingstoke mayor Cllr Dan Putty), the show was ambitious and creative. Filming partially took place at The Spotlight Centre in Popley, home to Spotlight UK.

Spotlight teamed up with Basingstoke-based Filmmaking for Kids, which endeavours to get young people interested in the filmmaking field.

The blend of live and filmed scenes must have been very challenging to accomplish, and Central Studio's technical team deserve praise for their efforts.

One effective scene had text captions overlaid, revealing the statistics behind bullying. Another standout moment involved the performers' costumes. Almost all of the performers during the live scenes were wearing blue shirts with terminology relating to social media on them.

Eventually, however, the performers removed these shirts to reveal a second, white shirt underneath. This shirt revealed the bullying that each character had suffered, and the combination of the performances with the music and lighting made this a very memorable part of the story.

Everyone involved should be immensely proud of a clever, powerful and meaningful production. Hot or Not's message is clear, and if enough people take notice of it, perhaps we could see more victims of cyberbullying coming forward for help. Even better, maybe less of this abuse will begin in the first place.

· Hot or Not's cast members dealt with the issue of bullying in their show at Central Studio on Saturday

## It's Bon Jovie!

EXPERIENCED tribute band Bon Jovie are staging an interactive show at Central Studio on Saturday, featuring all the hits and music from the original group.

They have performed in venues worldwide since forming in 2005.

It starts at 8pm, and tickets cost £10.

## Sing, sing, sing!

BASINGSTOKE Ladies Choir and Male Voice Choir join forces for a performance in Upper Woolhampton, Berkshire, this Saturday.

Set in Douai Abbey, the two choirs sing as part of Voices in Harmony at the site, which features acoustics suited for singing.

Entry is £10 for a 7.45pm start. Contact Maria Chung on 01256 781486.

## A classic night

BEETHOVEN'S Overture: Namensfeier, Schumann's Piano Concerto and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique make up the programme for the Philharmonia Orchestra, coming to The Anvil on Saturday.

The show features Piotr Anderszewski on piano and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen. Tickets start from £19.

# Competitions

**To enter this competition:**

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to **competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, OX11 7HR

# WIN tickets to the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort

**DIG out your fancy dress costume and head to the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort for 'Brick or Treat' Halloween fun from 19 October featuring themed games and activities, lashings of LEGO® and hundreds of pumpkins.**

Brick or Treaters should head for The Enchanted Forest, transformed into a spooky pumpkin patch, where they can solve the clues on the Brick or Treat Code Breaker Trail, build their very own LEGO pumpkins and meet bolt-necked Frankie, the friendliest monster in the world. He'll be leading the dancing at his Monster's Ball and there will be prizes for the best fancy dress every day. AND don't miss the spectacular end of season LEGO® DC SUPERHEROES themed fireworks display, lighting up the skies on 26/27 October and 1/2 November.

**Closing date: Friday, October 11**

Plus over 55 interactive rides, live shows, driving schools and attractions to discover - including the NEW LEGO Legends of Chima™ 4D Movie Experience, the famous LEGOLAND Driving School and the world's first underwater LEGO Submarine Aquarium experience, Atlantis Submarine Voyage.

We have two family tickets for this great event and to be in with a chance of winning one just answer this simple question:

**Q: WHAT DATE IS HALLOWEEN 2013?**

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LEGOLAND WINDSOR RESORT

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# Puzzles

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## Soduku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

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| | | 4 | 5 | | | 8 | 2 | |
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| 1 | 7 | | 8 | | | | | |
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| | | 8 | 2 | | | | 1 | 7 |
| | 3 | | | 5 | | | | 6 |

## Two speed crossword

**Quick Clues Across**

4 Climbs (6)
8 Wild incoherent speeches (7)
10 Restrain (7)
11 Cut open (5)
12 Sample food (5)
13 Refuse-eating animal (9)
16 Marine paintings (9)
19 Form of entertainment (5)
20 Insertion (5)
22 Attacks (7)
23 Dawn (7)
24 Wanders (6)

**Quick Clues Down**

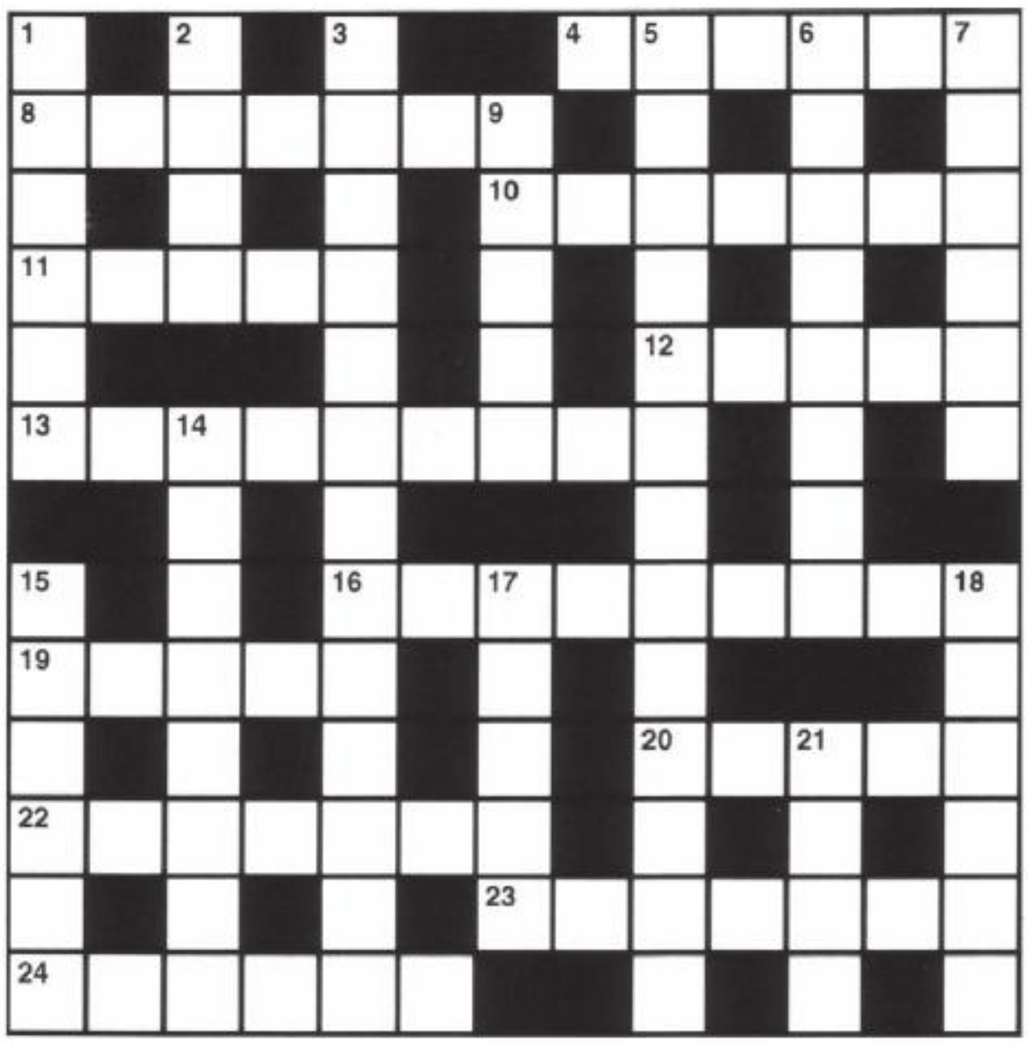
1 Ruffles (6)
2 Stove (4)
3 Without reason (13)
5 Buildings (13)
6 Domination (8)
7 Precious metal (6)
9 Thin person (5)
14 Valuer (8)
15 Principles (6)
17 Wrong (5)
18 Sofa (6)
21 Mistake (4)

**Cryptic Clues Across**

4 Work to put a question, then speak against the motion (6)
8 The plot has to have it all well conducted (7)
10 Be noisy with one in the list (7)
11 The goatman can stay right round (5)
12 So set back in the ones over there (5)
13 These lads are immortal (9)
16 Showers of feathers before autumn's at an end (9)
19 Go after the box for a gamble (5)
20 He wanders right over (5)
22 Sing about how it's on display (7)
23 Bombarded with nut cases! (7)
24 Condescend to take the head of the school as a pattern (6)

**Cryptic Clues Down**

1 The sailor was accustomed to be reviled (6)
2 Each attitude produced some talk (4)
3 Being of greater significance than the enthusiastic spy? (13)
5 Prudently I drop tones for questions about procedure (6,2,5)
6 As a matter of choice, work it up as a type of loan (8)
7 Gained what those at the end are trying to make (6)
9 The energy needed for a trip (5)
14 Gives up an embargo on Spaniards (8)
15 Humiliated as in a flower garden? (6)
17 Wins about a thousand dollars, and flies away (5)
18 Walk along where the earth's up on the east (5)
21 Wicked outcome of evil (4)




## Scribble space

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© of Dreams Ltd 2013. After Event prices apply 25/11/13. Headboards on divans are extra. Mattresses and bedding on bedsteads are extra. Accessories are extra. Delivery priced separately or collect for free from our depot. 40 night comfort guarantee applies to mattresses and divan sets only. Bedsteads, made-to-measure, clearance items, and adjustable bases are excluded. If after 30 and before 40 days from delivery (or collection) you decide that it is uncomfortable then you may select an alternative of the same size and the same (or higher) value. Difference in price must be paid at time of re-selection. Any difference in price cannot be refunded. Only one exchange per order. Delivery charged separately. Price promise applies to any bed or furniture for 28 days from purchase, if found cheaper (for the same or similar specification from the same manufacturer) and in perfect condition on display in another showroom Dreams will refund the difference plus £10. Customer required to supply evidence of price difference. Up to 3 year's free credit representative example. Cash price £4,500 less 20% deposit of £900. Then 36 monthly payments of £100 (0% APR). Total amount of credit £3,600, total amount payable £4,500. Finance subject to status, indemnities may be required. See in-store for full details.

# What's on at Avenue Nurseries

At the garden centre there is a good selection of plants flowering now also lots of flowering and evergreen plants to make up your hanging baskets and tubs. Winter flowering baskets and tubs - readymade - will be available from next week.

The Avenue Restaurant is as popular as ever, serving Sunday Roasts, hot meals daily, breakfasts, afternoon tea and cakes.

Avenue Nurseries is situated in a woodland setting and makes for a pleasant drive out into the countryside. Avenue Nurseries is signposted off the A339 Alton - Basingstoke Road and the B3349 Alton - Odiham Road. Advice is available for your choice of plants or any plant problems and the staff are always willing to help and lift heavy items into your car.

**We look forward to seeing you soon.**

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# Entertainment

To advertise in this section please call **01235 511700**. To place a free event listing email the details to **whatson@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

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**To 16 December, 2pm - 4pm**
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**To 3 December, 7pm - 9pm**
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Come and join a fun and easy cookery course, and impress your friends and family with your newly acquired culinary skills of Britain, favourite cuisine! This is 10 week course where you will learn about the various Indian spices, herbs and cooking techniques and prepare authentic Indian dishes and snacks - all under the supervision of a very skilled tutor, who has more than 15 years of teaching experience. 7 10 Week Course - £150.00 7941554108

**27 September, 7.30pm**
Central Studio, Queen Mary, College
**JO CAULFIELD**
Award winning and sharp-witted comedian, Jo Caulfield, brings her razor-sharp observations and scandalous one-liners to her new show. Better the Devil you Know 01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

**27 September,9.30am - 11.30am**
Church of Christ the King Brighton Hill
**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**
Coffee morning with bric-a-brac sale, and sale of quality cards in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care 01256 353047

**28 September, 6.30pm - 10.30pm**
Christ Church, Chineham
**EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES**
Celebration "Adult ticket £10 Child £4 Family ticket (2 adults, 3 children) £25 This includes international food from a buffet, soft drinks, a chance to socialise with others and ‚Äì if you so please ‚Äì practise your languages, a quiz and entertainment provided by amongst others: Basingstoke Sequence Dancers Vicky Lee, the Hula Hooper and Jake McCormick with his juggling and magic tricks. 01256 811100

**28 September, 8pm**
Central Studio, Basingstoke
**BON JOVI TRIBUTE**
This unforgettable gig will appeal to many generations of music lovers as they pay tribute to the famous American Rock n, Roll band. www.centralstudio.co.uk 01256 418318

**30 September, 7pm - 9pm**
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**5 October, 7.30pm 11.45pm**
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**5 October, 9.30am - 2.30pm**
London Street United Reformed Church
**CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE**
12 local and national charities will be selling a wide range of Christmas Cards and small gifts. Refreshments and light lunches will be available . All are welcome

**6 October,**
The Railway, Winchester
**BOO HEWERDINE AND DARDEN SMITH**
a rare duo performance www.railwaylive.co.uk

**9 October, 7.30pm**
The Haymarket
**JACK THE RIPPER**
For the past 125 years this mystery has captivated the imagination of people worldwide. The identity of the killer known as Jack the Ripper has long remained a mystery; but now, through Trevor Marriott, 12-year re-investigation of new suspects and new evidence, he challenges our understanding of the case, casting major doubt about many of the original and accepted theories. www.anvilarts.org.uk

**9 October, 8.15pm**
The Forge, Basingstoke
**FAUSTUS**
Nominated in the 2009 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, the Faustus triumvirate are three of the leading lights of their generation ‚Äì Saul Rose (Waterson:Carthy, Whapweazel), Benji Kirkpatrick (Seth Lakeman Band, Bellowhead) and Paul Sartin (Bellowhead, Belshazzar, Feast). www.anvilarts.org.uk

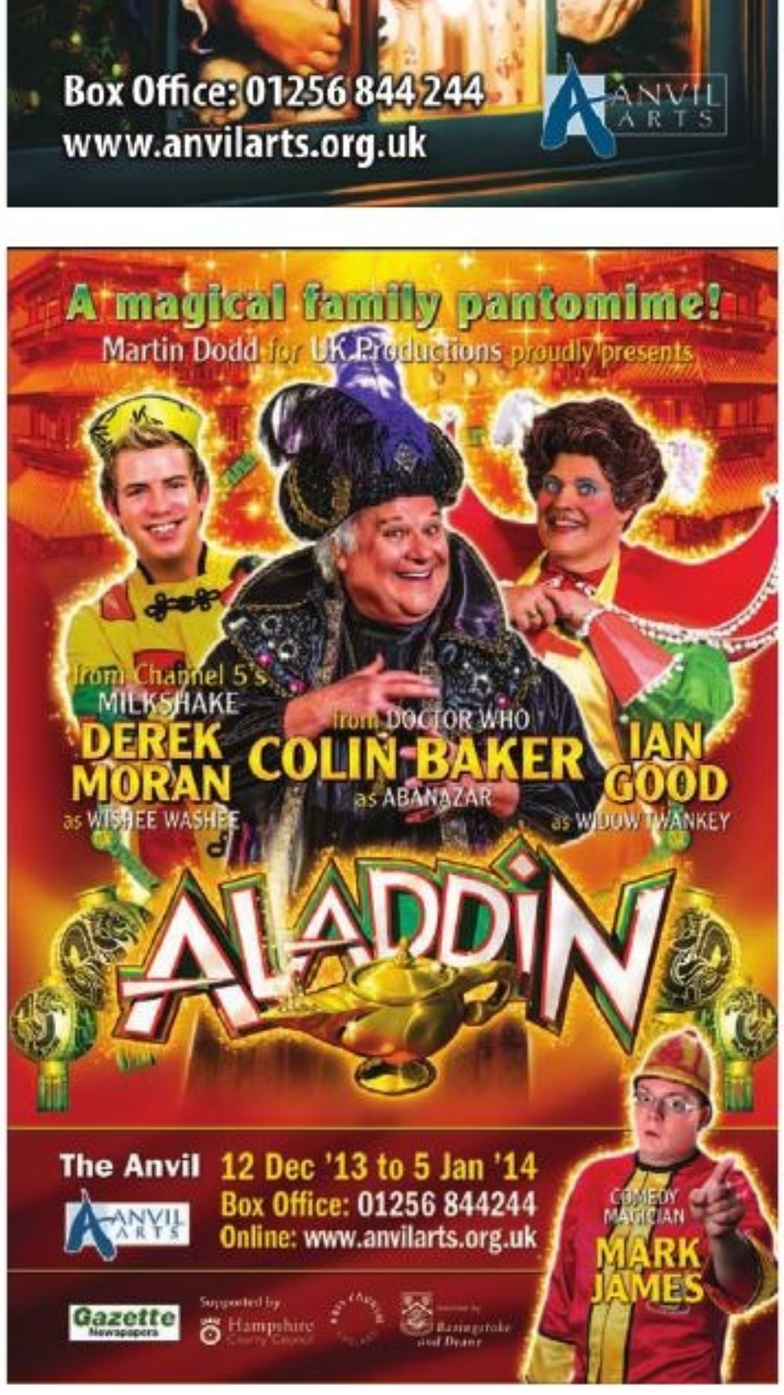
**12 October,**
The Railway, Winchester
**SACRI CUORI**
www.railwaylive.co.uk

**18 October, 8pm**
The Forge, Basingstoke
**CATFISH KEITH**
Cutting-edge blues singer, songwriter and bottleneck slide guitarist Catfish Keith has established himself as one of the most exciting country blues performers of our time. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

**18 October, 7.45pm**
The Anvil, Basingstoke
**VAMPIRES ROCK**
Steve Steinman plays the supremely evil Baron Von Rockula owner of the Live and Let Die club. In search of a new bride the Baron must convince the unsuspecting Pandora, who auditions for the new singing position, to cross over to the dark side and live for ever in rock ‚Äôn, roll hell. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

**19 October, 7.30pm**
The Anvil, Basingstoke
**AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH AL STEWART**
Stewart came to stardom as part of the legendary British folk revival in the sixties and seventies, and developed his own style of combining folk-rock songs with delicately woven tales of the great characters and events from history. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

**21 October - 22 October, 7pm**
The Haymarket
**SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL**
Each evening, four schools will perform four different Shakespeare plays. This year, the participating schools are Trinity School & Performing Arts College, Kennet School, Kempshott Junior, Park View Junior, Rucstall Primary School, Testbourne Community School, The Wavell School and Aldworth School. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk



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Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to **competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, OX11 7HR

# WIN £100 of John Lewis vouchers with Lepicol!

**Closing date: Friday, October 18**

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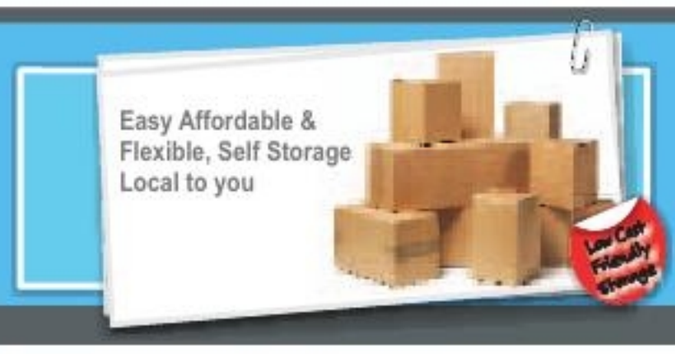


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# A new sizzling supermini!

REVIEW: PEUGEOT 208

By **Philip Shoulder**

*@writeonmotoring*

DURING the 1980s and 1990s the Peugeot 205 was considered one of the greatest hot hatches of its time - beating rivals from Ford, Vauxhall and Volkswagen. Subsequent 206 and 207 offerings – although faster - somehow failed to live up to their illustrious forebear.

Enter the new 208 GTi.

Along with parking sensors, automatic wipers/lights, dual zone air-conditioning, standard kit includes a seven-inch colour touch screen, which controls various infotainment functions: radio, Bluetooth hands-free kit or music files via a USB connection or audio streaming.

Throughout the cabin there are reminders of the car's sporting pedigree, with GTi badges adorning front seats and a flat-bottomed steering wheel.

Parts of the trim feel a bit 'plasticky', although the dash is relieved by swathes of red-stitched leather.

There's a decent driving position, and the sport seats offer plenty of back and lateral support.

Rear headroom is a bit restricted for six-footers, but the boot boasts a useful 285 litre capacity.

The 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol motor delivers 197 bhp and 275Nm of torque.

Coupled with a six-speed close ratio gearbox, the 208 GTi can blast to 0 to 62mph in 6.8 seconds. Despite the fireworks, a light kerb weight (1160kg) helps to keep the hot little Peugeot clean and efficient: emitting 139g/km of $CO_2$ and returning a claimed 47.9 combined mpg.

Despite all the grip and road holding ability, the chassis provides a firm yet supple ride. Refinement levels are good, especially for a sporting model, with well suppressed road and wind noise.

For a hot-hatch, the 208 GTi's steering and pedals are noticeably light, although this makes it an absolute doddle around town.

The Gearstick gate has a slightly clunky lever operation, but actual gear changes are positive and accurate.

VERDICT:

Although not comparable with the raw uncompromising potency of the iconic 205 GTi, Peugeot's new sizzling supermini has been briefed with a different remit: to offer performance and playfulness when required combined with enough comfort and refinement to be a viable everyday proposition.

Consequently the 208 GTi is stylish, fun and an appealing all-round hot hatch package.

• *The new Peugeot 208*

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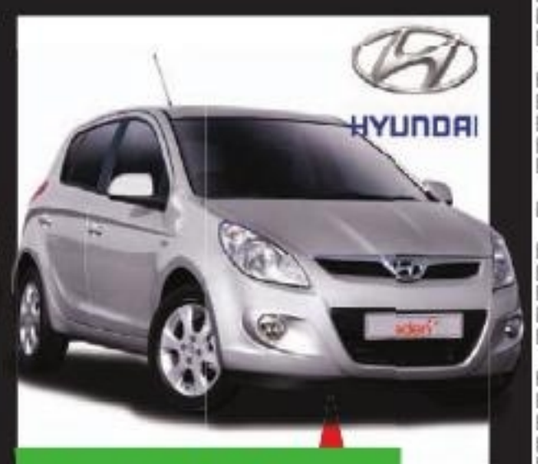

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| Model | Colour | Mileage | Reg | DOR | Price |
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| Mazda 2 1.3 Black Edition 5Dr HAT | True Red | 17300 | RK61WLN | 2011 | £8499 |
| Mazda 2 1.3 Tamura 84ps 5Dr 139/139 | Ice Blue | 13232 | RO12YHJ | 2012 | £8479 |
| Mazda 2 1.5 Sport 3Dr HAT | Black | 20658 | NL59ZKV | 2009 | £7499 |
| Mazda 2 1.5 Sport 3Dr HAT | Green | 20269 | LG60XCC | 2010 | £7869 |
| Mazda 3 1.6D TS 5Dr HAT | Blue | 18688 | DC59HLV | 2009 | £8499 |
| Mazda 5 1.6D Sport | Grey | 27022 | FP11XSM | 2011 | £13499 |
| Mazda 5 1.8 Takara | Blue | 32000 | WG10HHE | 2010 | £8990 |
| Mazda 5 2.0 Takara Auto | Grey | 23000 | GF10SDZ | 2010 | £9999 |
| Mazda 6 5Dr HAT 2.2D 163 TS2 | Silver | 52587 | SK59VBZ | 2009 | £8499 |
| Mazda 6 5Dr HAT 2.2D 163 TS2 | Red | 45000 | RO11OPY | 2011 | £11000 |
| Mx-5 1.8 | Silver | 25926 | WR07UFW | 2007 | £6499 |
| Mx-5 2.0i Sport Tech Rdstr CP | Black | 3930 | DE12UDA | 2012 | £15000 |
| Mx-5 2.0i Powershift Rdstr CPE | Silver | 8520 | EF10PZX | 2010 | £13990 |
| Mazda 2 1.3 Tamura 5Dr HAT | Metropolitan Green | 15500 | RO61AZW | 2011 | £7999 |
| Mazda 2 1.3 TS 75ps A/C 3Dr HAT | Silver | 18553 | DY10AZN | 2010 | £5999 |
| Fiat 500 0.9 Twinair Colour Therapy | Volare Blue | 5 | RE13OYP | 2013 | £9999 |
| Fiat 500 0.9 Twinair Lounge | Grey | 33936 | WR11DDJ | 2011 | £7499 |
| Fiat 500 0.9 Twinair Lounge Cvtbl | Bossa Nova White | 20000 | RE11ZNL | 2011 | £10499 |
| Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge 169/169 | Black | 8324 | LV61KUF | 2011 | £8999 |
| Fiat 500 1.2 POP 3Dr HAT | White | 53000 | WP08FMM | 2008 | £5499 |
| Fiat 500 1.2 POP 3Dr HAT | White | 15278 | RK10UFD | 2010 | £7498 |
| Fiat 500 1.2 POP 3Dr HAT | Volare Blue | 27000 | RE11ZNV | 2011 | £6999 |
| Fiat 500 2Dr Cvtbl 1.2 POP | Bossa Nova White | 25000 | RJ60KYN | 2010 | £9000 |
| Fiat 500 3Dr HAT 1.2 Lounge | Bossa Nova White | 16000 | RO11OWE | 2011 | £7990 |
| Fiat 500c 0.9 Twinair Lounge 2Dr Cv | Blue | 19285 | GU61SYH | 2011 | £11499 |
| Fiat Bravo 1.6 Multijet 105 Easy 5d | Gothic Grey | 6300 | RV62CXX | 2012 | £9498 |
| Fiat Fiorino Qubo 1.3 16V Dynamic M | Blue | 20100 | PJ60YMK | 2011 | £7499 |
| Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamic 3dr | Red | 59000 | RF08OHN | 2008 | £3999 |
| Fiat Punto 0.9 Twinair 85hp 3Dr | Crossover Black | 9524 | RO6ZVSD | 2012 | £7998 |
| Fiat Punto 1.4 EVO 3Dr 8V GP | Flamenco Red | 12000 | RK60ZZL | 2010 | £6990 |
| Hyundai I800 2.5 Crdi Style Auto 8st | Grey | 33222 | EK12ZDM | 2013 | £15489 |
| Hyundai IX35 1.7 CRDi Premium 2WD | Sleek Silver | 10481 | EJ62NVR | 2012 | £17499 |
| Hyundai IX35 2.0 CRDi Premium 4WD | Sleek Silver | 2109 | EJ13BBN | 2013 | £21999 |
| Hyundai Ix20 1.4 Style 5Dr | Grey | 5211 | HJ12JFZ | 2012 | £11490 |
| Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 Crdi Premium AU 7 | Silver | 20677 | DU61OGF | 2011 | £19490 |
| Hyundai Veloster 1.6 GDi Sport | Blue | 15370 | WG61JUY | 2012 | £12990 |
| Hyundai i10 1.2 Classic 5Dr 99/99 | Electric Red | 23635 | RO10GNP | 2010 | £5500 |
| Hyundai i20 1.2 Active 5Dr 159/159 | Blue | 9185 | EF62ZYM | 2013 | £9699 |
| Hyundai i20 1.2 Comfort 5Dr HAT | Electric Red | 68874 | RO59LFW | 2009 | £4499 |
| Hyundai i30 1.4 Active 5Dr HAT | Silver | 12806 | EN62ADT | 2013 | £12000 |
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| Hyundai i30 1.4 Comfort 5Dr | Silver | 41351 | NY10FLE | 2010 | £7499 |
| Hyundai i30 1.4 Comfort 5Dr | Blue | 17241 | FN09CWG | 2009 | £6999 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Comfort Auto 5Dr | Black | 15830 | WF10WVY | 2010 | £8800 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Crdi Comfort 5Dr EST | Blue | 8663 | YY10UXK | 2010 | £9999 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Crdi Comfort Auto 5Dr | Grey | 23400 | EF61CCU | 2011 | £12000 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Crdi Premium 5Dr | Silver | 6900 | ET10AEB | 2010 | £10500 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Style 5Dr HAT | Steel Grey | 45756 | RJ57CAD | 2007 | £4250 |
| Hyundai IX35 1.7 CRDI 2wd Premium | Sleek Silver | 9608 | EF62WVJ | 2013 | £18489 |
| Hyundai IX35 2.0 CRDi 2WD | Infra Red | 65465 | RO60UGN | 2010 | £12000 |
| Hyundai i10 1.2 Classic 5Dr HAT | Black | 37761 | RE59WHV | 2009 | £4790 |
| Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 5Dr HAT | Silver | 34227 | HV59RFZ | 2009 | £5999 |
| Hyundai i30 1.6 Crdi 110ps Active Bldr | Sleek Silver | 12543 | EN62PGX | 2013 | £13500 |

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*A: Why not book your car in for a service at our fiercely competitive rates and we can ensure that the vehicle is fully compliant for MOT standards.*

**Q** Are you looking for quality car repairs and servicing with the emphasis on SERVICE?
*A: Fastfit Service Centre, Basingstoke, offer FREE local collection and delivery or a FREE game of Pool while you wait.*

**Q** Why not book your car in for ECU Remapping & benefit from better mpg, more torque & more bhp?
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# Taking care of your motor

**FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.**

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's and entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes. we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

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Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a rang of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

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## What our customers think

• My car had been taken to three different repair centres which was suffering from low power none of them diagnosed the problem. I took it to these guys for a remap and full exhaust in the hopes it would fix it. It was better but Byron still thought it wasn't right so spent another couple of hours diagnosing it! He didn't charge me extra and even finished after they should of closed. You just don't get that kind of service these days. Amazing!
**Cheers,**
**Clive Baldwin**

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I wanted something activated on my car that was not activated at the factory. A dealer wanted upwards of £100 to do the job, I contacted Fast Fit and they have the same Dealer Software. Done the job quick and for a third of the price!
These guys definitely know what they're talking about and I would recommend them to anyone!
**Chris H**

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source: Yell


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| 2003 Renault Megane Scenic 1.6, 5 Door | £1495 |
| 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser 2 litre limited edition 4 door | £1795 |
| 2005 Scoda Octavia VR8 Estate (ex-Police) | £1495 |
| 1998 R Reg Land Rover Discovery V8 Petrol, 7 Seater | £1295 |
| 2002 Ford Transit LWB High Top | £1995 |
| 2003 Seat Ibiza 1.2 4 Door | £1395 |
| 2003 Citroen Saxo 1.1 5 Door Hatch | £1395 |
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**MEMORY** Lane Pubs by Peter Tomlins. All sizes. One lights up. Please phone for details. From £20 Tel: 01256 351647

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**SALTER** bathroom digital glass top scales, as new £10 Tel: 01256 363743

**STANDARD** lamps. Floor standin. Brass finish with crem shades. Pair £10 Tel: 01256 363743

**2** girls bikes 7-10yrs. Kept at grandparents house £7 each ono. Tel: 01189700361

**FOUR** Royal Doulton famous horse plates. Cellectables, mint condition £40. No offers Tel: 07500 947473

**LARGE** horse ornament bought in the New Forest. £20 No offers Tel: 07500 947473

**FACIAL** Sauna unwanted gift. Not used £5 No offers Tel: 07500 947473

**CANE** and Canvas magazine rack. Two separate compartments £10 Tel: 01256 320315

**PHILIPS** clock/radio (FM MW LW) Repeat alarm, slumber control £10 Tel: 01256 320315

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**FURRY** rocking horse £3. Needs a good home Tel: 01256 355009

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**STAG** Minstrel wardrobe. Cherry mahogany veneer. Full width hanging rail. Very good condition. £100 Tel: 01256 322041

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# Croker calls for 'Stoke to sort out attacking game

**JAMES Croker believes his side were too defensive-minded as they fell to their third defeat on the spin on Saturday.**

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Croker's side have lost three out of three in the National League Three London South and East season, the latest being a 49-14 reverse at Old Ethamians.

The Down Grange club were in the game for large chunks, trailing 15-7 at half time, but the home side stamped their authority with five tries in the second period.

"The first half went well – but we just gave them the ball for too long," said Croker. "And if you end up defending for long spells you will crack.

"The set piece wasn't great at the weekend, so that meant we were giving our primary possession away.

"The defence of their set piece wasn't great either – we weren't challenging them or putting them under pressure."

He did say that ball retention was better from the previous two games, but acknowledged that the teams his side have faced so far in the league have been clinical in punishing errors.

"But the three teams we've played so far, who are top three in the league, are clinical – so if you give them the opportunities they will convert them to points.

We need to start to get our attack going and make sure we win our primary possession – they are the two focus points for this week, and I'm confident we can get it right for this weekend.

Stoke have been very much in the last two games, before the opposition has seized chances later on and made the scorelines reflect worse on Croker's men.

However, Croker denied this was a fitness, issue, saying it was "probably a mental thing", given that "[we] have lost a couple on the bounce".

The club have been boosted this week in terms of selection, with Croker confirming Jamie Fish, Freddie Gleadowe, Ash Paterson, Ryan Davis and "the entire front row", will be available for Saturday's clash with Thurrock at Down Grange.

## Four-point joy as Bison get up and running

**BASINGSTOKE Bison picked up their first two wins of the season at the weekend, with victories against Bracknell Bees on Saturday and Telford Tigers on Sunday.**

First period goals from Tim Burrows, Cameron Wynn and Tomas Karpov earned Bison a 3-1 home win against Bracknell.

All of Bison's goals came in the opening period within five minutes of each other, before a relatively quiet second period that saw little action.

Olly Bronnimann pulled one back for the Bees, but by then it was too late and only the crossbar denied Bison's Aaron Connolly adding a fourth goal with three minutes remaining.

Sunday's match was a closer affair, as Bison edged Telford 3-2 with two goals for Joe Greener and one from Nicky Chinn.

The first period ended goalless, but Greener broke the deadlock in the second followed by another from Chinn to put Bison 2-0 up going into the final period.

Michal Pavlu reduced the deficit for the Tigers before Greener restored the two-goal lead. A late goal for Callum Bowley acted only as consolation as Bison held on for the win.

Milton Keynes Lightening are Bison's next opponents, as they play them in Coventry on Saturday before the home fixture the following day.

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## Collard and Foster hope for good Silverstone showing

• Rob Collard was on for a good weekend at Rockingham until bad luck intervened (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

**ROB Collard and Nick Foster will be hoping for better luck in the final two races of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season, which heads to Silverstone this weekend.**

Collard was set for a strong weekend at Rockingham last time out, but a puncture in race two when he was in fourth place cost him a sizeable haul of points.

He was then caught up in a crash in the final race, meaning he only earned nine points on the day for a seventh-place finish in race one.

Meanwhile, Foster was unable to break into the top-10, with a best result of 11th adding to his points total.

Silverstone was a successful event in 2012 for both drivers, with Collard picking up two podiums to help him towards fifth place in the championship.

Foster secured his best result of the season in the third race at the Northamptonshire track, coming fourth having at one stage been in the lead.

This year has been a struggle for both drivers however, with Collard 14th in the standings on 106 points, and Foster one place further back with a total of 90.

## Sport Bites

### Wintney victory

HARTLEY Wintney's strong start to the season continued, as they beat Windsor 5-3 away from home in the Combined Counties Premier Division on Tuesday night.

It follows Wintney's 2-1 victory over Bracknell Town in the second qualifying round of the FA Vase on Saturday, and are now seven games unbeaten in all competitions.

They are currently sixth in the league with three games in hand over leaders Epsom and Ewell. Next up for Wintney is the FA Cup second qualifying round away to Eastbourne Town on Saturday.

### Whitchurch win

WHITCHURCH United enjoyed an emphatic 5-0 win over Cowes Sports in the Wessex League Cup on Tuesday night, meaning they are now into the quarter finals.

The result helped to make up for Whitchurch's 2-1 defeat on Saturday, played at home against Wessex Premier League leaders Sholing.

Whitchurch play Moneyfields in the league on Saturday, before travelling to Eastleigh for the next round of the Hampshire Senior Cup on Tuesday.

### In-form Tadley

TADLEY Calleva will want to build on their promising start to the season, as they host Pewsey Vale on Saturday.

Calleva are fourth in the Wessex League First Division after five games, having scored 10 points following three wins and a draw so far this season.

Seventh-placed Pewsey are three points behind their weekend opponents, but have a game in hand and could leapfrog the home side.

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Inside: Collard and Foster hope for good Silverstone showing | Four-point joy as Bison get up and running | Wintney victory

# BOSS - LET'S GET UP FOR THE CUP

## Dragons manager wants team to go on a run in the FA Cup, starting at Weston on Saturday

**JASON Bristow wants his side to get beyond the first hurdle of the FA Cup when they face Weston-super-Mare this Saturday.**

By **James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Bristow's Dragons take on the Somerset side at the Camrose in the second qualifying round of the cup.

Fellow Skrill South outfit Weston got the better of Town when the two side met in the league on August 26.

Bristow acknowledges the match will be tough, but is confident his side can get a result.

"Everyone wants a good run in the cup," said the Dragons boss. "Financially for the club, for the prestige, and I suppose to put on your own CV too.

"It's a very tough tie against Weston - we've played them already this season and lost – but it's a game we will approach with the belief that we can win.

"It's important we don't fall at the first hurdle, and that we keep up the momentum of the performances that we have been turning out so far.

"If we do that, I'm sure we will progress."

Basingstoke will be looking to bounce back after a narrow 3-2 defeat against an impressive Bromley side last Saturday.

Debutant midfielder Matt Partridge, signed on a month's loan from Reading earlier in the week, gave Town the lead.

Bromley hit back twice before half time, before Shaun McAuley levelled the clash after the break.

However, the home side netted 15 minutes from time to preserve their 100 per cent home record.

Despite the defeat, Bristow found plenty of positives in his side's display.

"I think a draw would have been fair – we played some of the best football we've played all season," he said.

"They are a very good side, especially in an attacking sense. They scored three good goals, and unfortunately we couldn't quite get the third our play deserved.

"But there's a lot of positives to take from the game – we were just unfortunate not to get that point."

Basingstoke are eighth in the table after Saturday's result, with 13 points from eight matches.

Striker Manny Williams should return against Weston, after missing the Bromley clash through illness andle, goalkeeper Louis Wells also returns.

Kezie Ibe tussles with the Bromley defence (Picture by Les Chase)

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